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EMPIRE STATE ASSOCIATION OF DEAF-MUTES.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD BIENNIAL CONVENTION, HELD AT ITHACA,
N. Y., AUGUST 25—26, 1869.

MORNING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25.

MET in the Library Hall of the Cornell University at 9 o'clock.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Association, Alphonso Johnson.

The Orders of the Day were read, that all might know what to expect.

Prayer was offered, in the sign language, by Rev. Dr. Gallaudet.

The President then delivered the following address, which was read orally by Prof. I. L. Peet, at the same time that Mr. Johnson read it in signs:—

My Friends of the Association ; Ladies and Gentlemen :

As I arise to address you, I cannot refrain from remarking that I feel highly honored to address such a respectable assembly of mutes as I see before me. Time has sped on swiftly, and again we have met to hold our third biennial Convention. As I cast my eyes over this elegant and spacious Hall, I feel that it would have been difficult for us to have found a better place in which to meet.

Before proceeding with any further remarks, I will give a brief history of this Association.

The first Convention was held in Syracuse, N. Y., August 30th, 1865. At that time a constitution was adopted and officers elected.

The second Convention was held at the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, located on Washington Heights, N. Y., August , 1867. That being the occasion of the semi-centenary of the foundation of the Institution,

more than eight hundred mutes were present, probably the largest assembly of deaf-mutes ever held in this country.

Many of you, especially those who have not attended such a gathering before, will naturally enquire:—What is the object of these Conventions? I answer that we meet for social re-union and for improvement. Most of us were educated at the same Institution, where we spent from five to fifteen years; and during that time ties of friendship were formed among us, not to be broken even by years of separation and, like members of the same family, which have been scattered abroad, we have a desire to see each other again, and this feeling prompts us to come together from time to time and enjoy ourselves as only congenial spirits can. When at home, we are widely scattered, and must carry on conversation with our speaking brethren by the slow and laborious process of writing, but here we meet and our language of signs is brought into full play. Thought flashes from mind to mind, and we feel elated, so much so, indeed, as to forget our misfortune. We listen (with our eyes,) to addresses in our own well understood language. We return home with our minds well stored with ideas and information, and feel satisfied that our time has been profitably employed.

As we look back upon the past, we feel that a great measure of our gratitude is due to those noble few who labored for our sole benefit. Many of them have passed from earth, but they still live in our memory and always shall while life doth last. The last one to leave us and join those who had gone before him to the land of rest, was the lamented CLERC. The very name of that venerable man carries us back in thought to the period when the education of deaf-mutes in this country was absolutely unknown. Hundreds of deaf-mutes were left to grow up in total ignorance, but little better than the brute, save in form, and without hope and without God in the world.

I need not tell you that a mighty change has taken place within the last half century, a change for the better. There is still room for improvement, and probably the next half century will work fully as great a change as has already taken place. It is not yet time for us to lay aside the axe; we must take it up and hew our way to further advancement. Each of us has a work to do, and I cannot but hope that all of you will perform your share wisely and well.

The Secretary, H. C. Rider, read his Report, which was accepted. It reviewed the history and progress of the Association down to the present time and showed a favorable condition of affairs and a good prospect for the future.

He said that the number of members at Syracuse was fifty-seven, and at the New York Convention one hundred and forty-nine. Of active members three were deceased, viz: John W. Chandler, Charles H. Works, and Levi S. Backus. Of honorary members, one had died: Laurent Clerc, A. M.

Cornelius Cuddeback, the Treasurer, gave a detailed report of the receipts and expenditures of the year, showing about an even state of things. His report was accepted.

He paid a high tribute to his brother officer, the Secretary, to whose energy, enterprise and faithful performance of duty he attributed the present favorable condition of affairs.

The Treasurer, in exhibiting his account, had referred to some funds belonging to the Association which were in the hands of Mr. M. D. Bartlett. and John Witschief now came forward and explained, satisfactorily as it seemed, why those funds were not forthcoming, and why Mr. Bartlett himself was not at the Convention, ending with the assurance that the matter was all right, and that the funds in question might be safely set down as a part of the balance on hand.

Mr. Cuddeback proposed that the Constitution be so amended as to provide for the holding of Conventions once in four years instead of once in two.

After some informal talk on this and connecting subjects, it was laid on the table. The general opinion was that the Conventions, now held yearly by the two existing Associations, alternately, were not too frequent for the good of our class, and that no change was called for until the rise of other Associations should necessitate it.

Prof. Peet offered a resolution, the substance of which was that this was not a convention of teachers, therefore we would not discuss the merits and faults of this or that mode of deaf-mute instruction,—it would be like sick persons prescribing for themselves instead of acting on the advice and taking the prescription of a physician—but all our proceedings should aim at a practical illustration of the results of the system under which we had been educated and the ability we had thereby acquired to act intelligently on matters and things in actual life. The resolution was heartily endorsed and unanimously adopted.

President Johnson here notified the Convention that, as a rule, all resolutions must be reduced to writing and be handed to him previous to coming before the meeting. This would prevent confusion, and secure order and propriety in the proceedings.

Prof. Peet then offered the following resolution :—

Resolved—That agricultural life is better adapted to promote the general welfare and happiness of Deaf-Mutes, than any other occupation in which they can engage.

Mr. Angus, of Indiana, seconded the resolution and proceeded to discuss it. He had seen good results to mutes who had engaged in farming in the West. In the East, they engage mostly in trades, remain in close cities, and do not generally prosper as well as when they go into the country. They might go West, buy land cheap, and in two years have a good home and begin to accumulate wealth. He knew many who had thus prospered.

John Witschief, of New York, objected to the resolution on the ground that Agriculture could not be practised in cities, and the mutes therein resident could not be expected to move into the country. Most of them were

without means to do so, and many of them had no taste or inclination for the pursuit. He evidently looked upon the passage of the resolution as making it necessary for the mutes to go into the country and exchange the awl, the graver and the pen for the plough, the shovel and the hoe.

W. M. Chamberlain endorsed the resolution, and said that while there was much truth in the remarks of the last speaker, they were not at all to the point. The question was not whether it was advisable for all mutes to leave their present occupations and become farmers; but whether Agriculture was not one of the best occupations which a deaf-mute could profitably follow. The resolution had been introduced to bring out the opinions of those present, and did not involve any emigration scheme or general exodus.

The intelligent farmer had one advantage over other men, in that he could both work and study at the same time. The mechanic who should try to read a book or newspaper and work at the same time would be very apt to cut or bruise himself, or damage his work; but the farmer could study the ever open Book of Nature and follow his occupation at the same time, thus filling pocket and mind together.

Dr. Gallaudet suggested that this was a good opportunity to present the matter in such a light that many of us might be induced to prefer the natural, free and unrestrained life of the farmer to the artificial, fashion-bound life of the city. All trades and professions have their uses, and the farmer is dependent upon the product of many other trades to enable him to carry on a profitable occupation. On the other hand, the mechanic, the artisan and the manufacturer are dependent upon the farmer for much of the food which enables them to sustain life and pursue their vocations.

He incidentally referred to the scheme, once much talked of, but long ago abandoned, of obtaining a reservation of Government land in the West, upon which deaf-mutes should settle, live and govern themselves. Such a plan, like all other projects, had much good on its face, but there were too many difficulties in the way to make it profitable, even if the deaf-mutes, as a class, had been willing to emigrate, to do which, only a few had shown any disposition, and he might have said, although he did not, that those few were restless, roving spirits, too fond of variety and excitement to settle quietly down anywhere, and not the steady, enterprising men needed for the successful accomplishment of a project like this. It was best, in most cases, where deaf-mutes had already a good trade, at which they could earn a comfortable support, for them to continue to follow it; but where they were beginning life, he would advise them to study and examine the merits and advantages of Agriculture before deciding upon an occupation.

Prof. Peet gave other reasons in favor of his resolution. If each man had a farm, be the same large or small, and knew how to manage it to the best advantage, and did so, there would be no poor-houses in the land. He intended that each of his boys should have a farm and know how to carry it on, whatever occupation they might choose, so that they might have something to fall back upon in case of accident or failure in other things.

Mr. S. J. Vail, of Indiana, was strongly in favor of the resolution. His own observations had convinced him that farming life and agricultural associations were the most satisfactory to the deaf-mutes. He knew many mutes in the West whose farms were fast making them men of wealth and remarked that ladies with matrimonial intentions would find a good field for operations by going out there, as every farmer, as soon as he had a house ready, began to look for a wife, rightly considering a good one a great help to advancement on the road to prosperity.

Mr. Hicks, of Long Island, a nursery-man, remarked that a farmer's life was not all sunshine. Like other men, he was subject to reverses, failure, and damage, from various causes. Agriculture might be best adapted to some men, but it was not, in all respects, a surer mode of living.

Mr. Chamberlain, of Mass., drew a picture of a sick mechanic with nothing saved from his earnings, or his savings rapidly wasting away in current expenses and doctor's bills, his work at a stand or in the hands of another and profiting him nothing, and the poor-house looming up dismally in the distance, while the anxiety and care induced by his condition seriously retarded his recovery. The farmer, he said, under like circumstances of sickness or disability, was not so burdened with care. He could hear the rustle of his corn and the lowing of his cattle even in his sick chamber, and be assured that his crops were growing still, during his enforced idleness. He (Mr. C.) had serious objections to being sick at all, but, all things considered, he had much rather be a sick farmer than a disabled mechanic.

The discussion closed with some favorable remarks by Mr. McLaughlin, of Albany, and, on motion, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Gallaudet announced that he would hold religious services at St. John's Church in the evening, in accordance with custom. As pastor of a congregation of mutes in New York, and being considered, by a large portion of the mutes, as their pastor at large, he felt it both a duty and a pleasure to exercise his vocation whenever and wherever he had opportunity.

He referred to the recent decease of the veteran, Laurent Clerc, his honored father's co-pioneer in the art of instructing deaf-mutes in America, and gave some account of the christening of his own twin children, at which Mr. Clerc stood sponsor, the boy having been named after him, and of Mr. Clerc's illness, last hours and funeral, the particulars of which have already been published in the FRIEND.

On motion, adjourned to 2½ o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention re-assembled according to adjournment, to *listen* to the Oration, which was to be delivered by John Carlin, Esq., of New York.

The clouds had threatened rain during the assembling. The meeting had been called to order, and the President was on the point of introducing the

Orator, when the spacious hall was suddenly darkened, the wind roared, the rain fell in torrents, and thunder and lightning added to the display. It was a real mountain thunder-storm.

Some one remarked that the storm was a grand overture, or introduction, and he hoped the performance (oration) would be worthy of it. We think it was. The gas having been lighted, Mr. Carlin was introduced, and delivered the following

ORATION.

Mr. President, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Pursuant to my acception of the honor tendered me by your Board, I rise to address you on this occasion. For my discourse I have chosen a subject appropriate to the present time, and intend to speak upon some topics which concern the social welfare of American deaf-mute graduates.

You have left your quiet homes for the purpose of here partaking, for two brief days, of the pleasures of a social gathering. A convention such as this affords peculiar gratifications to those permitted to participate in it. As a matter of fact, conventions of all kinds produce in those present a state of pleasurable excitement. Old ties of friendship are renewed, new acquaintances are formed, speeches run fluently, sometimes glowing with eloquence, sometime sparkling with wit or overflowing with humor, sometimes unfortunately turbid with stupid nonsense; and the earnest participants, averse to suffering defeat, struggle hopefully, or hopelessly, to maintain their opinions while the audience enjoy the intellectual treat thus afforded.

The selection of this place for our gathering is an exceedingly happy one. Ithaca occupies one of the most favored spots in this State. Accessible by convenient and comfortable routes, surrounded by lovely scenery and everything which can charm the sense of sight. I congratulate you, Mr. President and those here convened, that we have been permitted to assemble amid such delightful surroundings. And when we compare the beauty of Ithaca with that of its many rivals, the other towns and cities of this great State, we may perhaps—like Paris of yore when comparing the graces of Juno, Venus and Minerva—be long in doubt and yet at last concede the prize of comeliness to this Venus of a city.

Being an admirer of the Beautiful, I cannot resist the temptation to make a geographical observation concerning the State of New York. It appears to me that, with the single exception of California, this is the most favored of all the sister States in attractiveness of Nature. Behold her boundaries—Lake Erie, from which the youthful Perry wrote those undying words, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," not less vigorous and terse than Cæsar's "Veni, Vidi, Vici;"—the mighty Falls of Niagara whose roar—

"The eternal peal of Hallelujah high
Our ears, bereft of sense, refuse to hear;
But the grand cataract, the snowy spray,
And the prismatic bows in bright sunshine
Delight our eyes and fill our souls with awe."

And the turbulent Niagara River, spanned by so seemingly frail and yet so secure a bridge; the Whirlpool—

“The raging pool, o’er which the Queen of Mist,
Steered by three mortals, in mad triumph shot.”

And Lake Ontario, and broad St. Lawrence River with its thousand isles, revelling in luxuriant vegetation; our Lake Champlain, on which the chivalric Macdonough made Britanua understand that Columbia was to share equally with her in the rule of all the seas; the matchless Hudson River—the delight of tourist; the bay of New York and Long Island Sound, and the tortuous Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. It seems also, that Nature, in mood of playful fancy, has made slight furrows with her fingers in the ground, which, gradually extending, have become small lakes, Oncida, Cayuga, Seneca, Otsego and Horicon. Indeed such lovely sheets of water as these, have been and continue to be the theme of praise in prose and verse. Besides these beauties, this State is also fortunate in its mountains. Though lacking the altitude of the White or Rocky Mountains, they possess much of the picturesque, yet none the less of the grandeur. The Highlands, crowding upon the Hudson, and the Adirondacks, towering sullenly above the vast, boundless wilderness, inspire the mind with lofty emotions; and the Catskills suggest the peculiar charm of superstition, flung over them by the wizard pen of Washington Irving. And what else need I add to these glories of our State? Ranking with the most favored countries of earth in landscape attraction, she holds a proud position as the foremost in commercial and industrial enterprise. Oh, would to Heaven that this fair land may be speedily relieved of the social and political evils that prey upon her vitals, and the recitation of God’s word, engrafted upon her educational plan, be preserved in unsectarian simplicity as long as she exists a Sovereign State!

To proceed with my subject, I shall endeavor to make my few suggestions in such plain language that those in charge of our institutions may understand them perfectly and may render them justice by acting upon them as far as they may be found practicable and in accordance with good sense.

The phrase “Deaf-mute graduate,” in common use, means one who has completed his course of tuition and is discharged from school. Considering the shortness of his term and the imperfect system of instruction now in use at all the institutions, he cannot be expected to have become what is called a finished scholar,—still, he should go home sufficiently educated to make his way in the world, earn his livelihood and provide for the support of his family when he has one.

It may perhaps be necessary to say, in reference to the imperfections of our system, that, inasmuch as all known sciences, though considerably advanced, have not yet reached their highest development, but new discoveries are continually made, and old errors are exposed and rectified, so the science of deaf-mute instruction, in the same category, is continually undergoing improvement. Even, however, in the face of the fact that our system has not

yet attained its fullest growth, the intelligence which you display in your social intercourse and industrial pursuits must convince every thinking mind that much good has already been done, and that progress has been made promising better things for the future generations of our own class.

Besides the branches of common education already alluded to, the most common trades, from two to four in number, have long been and are still taught in all our schools. Now I confess myself desirous to see another and better industrial course introduced. This is a subject of acknowledged importance; has provoked much discussion at the teachers' conventions on its merits and demerits; but since the continuation of the old course has been decided on, upon the bare argument that it tends to instill habits of industry into the pupil's mind, I feel it my duty to protest against the prolonged instruction in such ill-selected trades as have proved detrimental to the graduates' pecuniary welfare. Why, I ask, should we make thousands of mute shoemakers and tailors with sallow faces and bent backs? Why not make most of them farmers, house-carpenters or blacksmiths instead? The cabinet-makers and book-binders instructed in the institutions, do not fare a whit better than the tailors and shoemakers, and we are compelled to observe that many of the graduates, who have spent their best years of youth learning these trades at school, have not afterwards continued them, but by force of a natural aptitude to learn anything, have, after leaving the institution, mastered other more healthy and more remunerative occupations. But what serious cost and loss of time does this second apprenticeship entail! To instill habits of industry into the pupil's mind, I argue that the trade selected for his instruction, should be so healthful in its nature and remunerative in its practice, that he may adopt it as his future permanent occupation.

For the purpose of imparting to male mute pupils the elementary principles of agriculture, house-carpentering, smithcraft and others of invigorating and profitable character, with the view of ensuring success by habituating them to industry and rendering the subsequent learning of other trades unnecessary, large farms in healthy localities and with abundant water facilities are by far the best places. The success of this noble institution, the Cornell University, is an illustration in point. Such situations can be had at moderate prices, and their seclusion from cities or large towns renders unnecessary any outlay for expensive materials and ornaments to the buildings and factories; but they should be substantially constructed throughout. I urge, therefore, the establishment of institutions in the country and instruction in the above-named occupations for these reasons:—that the number of deaf-mutes is constantly on the increase; that from their want of hearing they require a peculiar mode of instruction in special schools, established for the express purpose; that a great many of the mutes coming to school hail from the rural districts, and have a natural taste for farming; that house-carpentering is a lucrative trade, and ever in demand where new houses are rapidly built all over the land, and that in smithcraft the learners, having even

tolerably acquired the cunning of handicraft on the anvil, will be able always to obtain work after their graduation. Hence, these establishments should exist in perpetuity; should occupy advantageous locations in the country, and possess permanent incomes besides the regular annuities from the State. As for the girls, their knowledge of the needle and the like could be acquired anywhere, though their work would necessitate their residence in proximity to cities or large towns, for which purpose separate establishments are necessary.

Permit me, however, to remark that there should be a far greater thoroughness in all the instruction in trades. All the technical branches of each trade should be well taught. As a matter of fact, the shoemaker, at his graduation, does not know how to make fine boots or ladies' shoes, nor does the tailor know the rules of genteel cutting. But there is good reason to believe that our institution, if settled in the country, as is suggested, will be in a pecuniary condition to afford their pupils better trades and opportunities to learn them thoroughly, and send each graduate forth a first class-workman, capable to do all manner of work in his respective calling, and that creditably to himself and also to his *Alma Mater*.

Now to bring these desiderata into effect, I respectfully propose that the New York Institution should come to the foremost rank of those aiding to consummate the great work. Why is this institution preferred to others for this undertaking? Because vast wealth is within her reach. Having recently been relieved of oppressive debt, she still possesses a valuable property. Its short distance from the city of New York, its proximity to the Central Park, and the Harlem River, famous for its Aquatic and Piscatory pleasures, the attractions of Nature within the range of her sight conspire to render its location a most desirable one for a first class hotel for the benefit of those desiring pure country air in the immediate vicinity of the city. Its value for this purpose must be very great. No doubt the sale of the whole property would produce more than one million of dollars, affording a fund ample for extensive enterprise and the source of permanent income,

As regards the graduates of a higher class of intellect, it is proper to say that they are generally well qualified to fill higher positions. Most of this class, save only the few successful ones, have in vain sought situations as clerks in mercantile or other offices, and, in consequence of their ill success, have been obliged to drive the awl or ply the needle or follow other trades by no means congruous to their superior intelligence. What is the true obstruction in their way? Prejudice? I am sorry to say that it is. This spirit is common among even the most intelligent—the most benevolent men of business, who so blindly believe that the want of hearing and speech must necessarily incapacitate a deaf-mute applicant from fulfilling his functions at the desk—an opinion as illogical as it is cruel. Illogical, because it is contrary to the fact that arithmetic is taught at all the schools, and algebra and book-keeping are liberally and intelligently taught in the High Classes at the New

York and Hartford Institutions and with decided success. Illogical, because it contradicts the truth that more fortunate applicants have since filled elevated positions to the perfect satisfaction of their employers. Cruel, because it crushes the tender budding hopes in the applicant's mind, checks his higher aspirations and drives him to the drudgery of a trade that affords no charm to him. But this Prejudice comes rather from ignorance than malice, for, in fact, those who refuse the applicant's request do so from fear that they cannot communicate as fluently as with their hearing employees, or apprehend that he would commit serious mistakes in their ledgers. These displays of apprehension do not bespeak malice, and I presume that the prejudice will cease to exist where the true merits of the case are more properly understood or the applicants are admitted and tried for perhaps three months. Meanwhile, it is hoped that all mute aspirants for the desk and high stool will patiently bide their time and wait for better luck, knowing that when it comes to them, they will be in clover. It is worth while here to remark that our much-respected Uncle Sam is not in the least prejudiced against deaf-mutes so far as their competency as clerks in his offices is concerned, for he has in his employment five or six mutes at Washington City, two at the New York Custom House and several elsewhere, who have all given such satisfaction that they have been allowed to escape decapitation. A kind, considerate old gentleman that Uncle Sam!

The search for employment in the trades is much more productive of success than that in clerkship. The reason is mainly that experts in handicraft, be they mute or speaking persons, are always in demand; their services are needed, and they are secured as soon as they offer themselves. Many cases have come to my knowledge where good mute workmen have been kept steadily engaged for years past, and there seems to be no reason why they shall not so continue for years to come, so long as their employers continue to be satisfied with their good behaviour and their workmanship. And as regards the remuneration for their labor, there is not the least difference between mute and hearing persons engaged in the same kind of work. There is also none between mute and hearing clerks in the same grades of office. You ask if there is any difference in this respect between mute and hearing instructors of deaf-mutes. I answer, yes; but, understanding, correctly, I most devoutly trust, that the New York Institution, through the present efficient Principal, backed most heartily by the Directors, has just taken the initiative in bringing her mute teachers to the same level with their hearing colleagues in salary, it seems reasonable to believe that all the other institutions will sooner or later follow her praiseworthy example.

Thus, my friends, I have dwelt largely on the subject of labor and its equivalent in payment; I have done so because it is just the point on which, from my observation and experience, I could suggest reforms conducive to the social welfare of the deaf-mute community. I shall now tread another ground, which I hope you will find neither dull in matter nor barren of suggestions.

The social welfare of the graduates depends upon three sources for its permanency, viz :—their skill in the occupations, of which I have spoken, the actual possession of personal and real property, and the freedom and congeniality of social intercourse. These sources contribute substantial happiness, provided they are judiciously managed. The actual possession of accumulated personal property, which is to say, moneys invested in bank or elsewhere, cannot fail to render its possessor happy in the thought that he is a rich man, though his whole wealth consists only of a few hundreds; and the acquirement of real property, even of the most modest proportions, makes his mind placid and causes his blood to course with regularity, undisturbed by horrid leeches in the shape of rent-dues. The question of riches is relative. He who does not spend all his income, even moderate, is rich, while he who wastes all he receives is poor, though his income may be greater than that of the frugal man. To lay the foundation for and to increase this second source of social welfare requires frugality without being miserly, and prudence without excess of caution. These sterling virtues, however, do not deny their possessor many wholesome pleasures, but give as free scope to human enjoyment as wisdom will allow. Like gentle showers of half-hours' duration reviving the vegetable world, moderate expenses in innocent pleasures refresh the mind, lighten the heart, and vivify the blood; they do not in any wise diminish the source. But on the other hand, expenses in unnecessary superfluities, like incessant rains, mar the growth of grain—in other words, they thwart the accumulation of wealth. The spendthrift, in his wild-goose chase after pleasure, is always found poor, and may perchance end his days in an almshouse or in a drunkard's grave. Let my young deaf-mute friends by no means lose sight of these important truths.

I now proceed from the second to the third source of social welfare, and it is a theme prolific of thought. Social intercourse! Oh, happy name; what a combination of love inspiring words is that! How pleasant it would be to expatiate on this topic all day long! But here on a summer day, that naturally relaxes mind and body, I am admonished to be brief.

What constitutes Social Intercourse? The mutual association of individuals, an instinct founded deep in the nature of man, ordained by Divine Providence for his well being. Nothing is more evident than the axiom of Balzac :— "*Les hommes sont nés pour vivre en société.*" (All men are born to live in society,) for man's first impulse in infancy is to seek the genial companionship of those of the closest ties of blood; in childhood and youth his irrepressible love of society conducts him to the company of others of his own age at school and play; the young man is found basking in the smiles of the fair one in teens; his riper manhood and old age are spent in the midst of his family and acquaintances. Generally, a man's friends belong to his own class of society; but sometimes are of the same condition, mental or physical, in which he is placed,—be they his superiors or inferiors in society. Now it is evident that our physical condition—the want of hearing—exercises over us

so irresistible an influence that deaf-mutes are led to seek each other's acquaintance, almost without regard to various classes of society or even different mental temperaments. This condition is so controlling that male mutes naturally prefer female mutes for wives and the females the males for husbands. And it is somewhat curious that almost all semi-mutes, enjoying in more or less measure the faculty of speech, have married totally deaf-mute girls. Why is this? Perhaps because of their similar consciousness of a bereavement of the auditory sense, and consequently their cordial sympathy for each other. It is true that there are mutes who have hearing wives, but such cases are comparatively few. Seeing that quite a number of hearing instructors of deaf-mutes have mutes for wives, I venture to attribute this fact to the fair enchantresses' personal attractions and the gracefulness of their arms and hands, gyrating in the sign language, rather than to anything connected with their physical condition.

That the fellowship of mutes with each other is pleasant none can deny. Their social intercourse, however, should by no means be confined to the narrow circle of deaf-mute acquaintances. We should cultivate relations with hearing persons, and this is of paramount importance to the mute, for we are, in truth, dependent on them for all things necessary to our livelihood and mental culture. Our scope of knowledge needs to be enlarged as far as possible by constant communication with those conversant with literature, and with those who practically tend business; as a general rule, hearing persons of known integrity naturally evince a lively interest in the welfare of their mute friends, and are always willing, nay, cheerful to assist them in any thing connected with the three sources of their social welfare, more especially the first and second.

In promoting these sources, if the mute exercises skill in his trade or profession and practices a wise economy so as to secure his competency, and if he cultivates a free and genial intercourse with his friends—only those whose good character recommends them to his friendship,—his enjoyment of life will be exquisite, no matter though he suffer from the ills that flesh is heir to.

But, in conclusion, these earthly pleasures cannot be complete without true religion. Without its benignant influences prevailing on the heart—without the truth impressed on the soul, without the presence of Our Heavenly Father and his Son, and the tender mercies they freely bestow on all, the promise of Salvation and the everlasting rest of saints in Paradise, our social welfare, however real on earth, so far as worldly goods or joys are concerned, can hardly encourage us in the belief that we shall be ferried safely over the dark, mysterious river from this sin-tainted world, to another better, and more glorious existence. Let us ponder well this thought, and while we proceed along our various walks in life, pursuing our respective callings here, and keeping steadily in mind the three sources, already stated, as contributing their benefits to our welfare, let us continually pray the divine Being to bless our efforts, to grant us his peace, and fortify

our hope of enjoying an eternal intercourse with Himself and His saints and angels on high.

At the close, the Orator was roundly applauded and, on motion of Prof. Peet, a vote of thanks was tendered to him for his able, eloquent and interesting address.

Prof. Peet said that he could heartily endorse many points in the oration, and that, if published, it would doubtless be the means of removing false impressions from the minds of hearing people and thereby tend to benefit the deaf and dumb.

Mr. Carlin thanked Prof. Peet for his endorsement and the assembly for its attention to and evident appreciation of his address.

Dr. Gallaudet remarked that it ought to be regarded as a good sign, that so much had been said in favor of Agriculture. Mr. Carlin knew nothing, when he delivered his oration, of the resolution of Prof. Peet and its discussion, as he was not in the hall during the morning session. If the general opinion and inclination of the Convention might be taken as those of the mute community at large, we should yet have many devoting themselves to the noble and useful science of Agriculture. At any rate, there had been a remarkable coincidence and unanimity of opinion on the subject.

The President announced that the Constitution was open for discussion or amendment.

Mr. Fitzgerald, of New York, moved to repeal that clause of the Constitution which enables ladies to vote in the elections, saying that the ladies never availed themselves of the privilege. He was frank enough to say, also, that he did not believe in woman suffrage.

Mr. Chamberlain said that even if never used, he did not think there was any harm in letting the clause alone. The Association had given the ladies the right to vote, and was to be credited with gallantry whether they did vote or not. One reason why he would let the clause remain was, that public attention was being greatly attracted by and directed to the subject of "Woman's rights," and he did not doubt that a good many privileges and rights would hereafter be granted to woman which were now denied her; and the ladies might some day feel inclined to insist on their privileges, that of voting among the rest. It would then be awkward, if the clause were now repealed, to be obliged to reconsider and replace it on the books. It would be more creditable to let it remain, and whenever the world granted woman the right to vote, the records would show that deaf-mutes were ahead of the world in that respect at least. In any case the clause could do no harm.

Mr. Carlin said that Mr. Chamberlain's remarks would be pleasing to Susan Anthony and other advocates of woman's rights, but he was in favor of repealing the clause, not from any disrespect for the ladies or fear of harm from their influence in the meetings of their association, but as a matter of principle; it being his settled opinion that, while woman, in her natural

sphere, was capable of doing much good, and exerting a powerful influence, she would, if introduced into politics, in New York for instance, largely increase the foreign vote and have a prejudicial effect on American liberties.

Messrs. Rider and Tillinghast argued strongly for retaining the clause, and were eloquent in defence of the good influence of woman, quoting numerous examples and freely expressing the opinion that men of wealth and influence owed much of their success to the influence and advice of mothers and wives.

The resolution was finally, on motion of Mr. Rider, laid on the table.

Mr. Rider then suggested that the Constitution be so amended that the Board could choose any worthy and talented deaf or semi-mute for orator at Conventions, without regard to the Institution from which he might have graduated, and also to empower them to pay his expenses from the funds of the Association. The Board had hitherto felt bound to choose graduates of New York, as orators, while there were graduates of other Institutions whom they would be glad to choose from in the future, if they had the power. The expenses of the orator had always been paid by the Association, but some doubt had been expressed as to the right to do so. He desired something done to settle the question.

Messrs. Carlin, Chamberlain, and others argued that the Constitution gave all necessary power to the Board. Mr. Chamberlain especially noted the fact that the Board were empowered to choose agents and pay their expenses. An orator was an agent of the Board to forward the objects of the Association by delivering a discourse on some interesting and instructive subject or subjects, and of course his expenses must be paid, and there was sufficient power therefor. He deemed any further action unnecessary.

Mr. Rider said he had only raised the point for his own satisfaction and for that of any who were doubtful. He was now satisfied, and if no one else had objections he would withdraw his suggestion. No objections were made, every one being evidently satisfied, and the matter was dropped.

Mr. Rider now moved that all the Meetings of the Board of Managers of the Association, subject to the President's call, be suspended till further notice, for the following reasons:—

1. Because the Association has to pay the expenses of the members of the Board in attending such meetings. The expenses of the past two meetings, one at Utica and one at New York, having been more than one hundred dollars.

2. Because such meetings were not absolutely necessary at present. All the business now transacted at them could be done by the new Board of officers in a short time and be finished before the adjournment of each Convention, and that, if all attending a Convention knew, before its adjournment, when and where the next Convention would be held, who would deliver the oration, &c., each one would act as voluntary agent in imparting the information and save a good deal of advertising, besides extending the news much more widely and universally than could be done by the Board alone.

3. Because it would save much money to the Association, and increase the prospect of attaining one desired object—a permanent fund, the interest of which, would be sufficient to defray all current expenses of the Society and enable the Association itself to become a power and a useful institution.

Mr. Chamberlain seconded the motion, and explained that, in past times, the "New England Gallaudet Association," of which he was an officer, had been accustomed to know, before the adjournment of each Convention, where and when the next one would be held, and other particulars, and the plan had worked exceedingly well, besides saving much expense.

No protest was made and the motion was carried.

Notice was given that the election of officers would be in order at the opening of the next session, and the meeting adjourned to 9 A. M.

THE SERVICE,

which was held in St. John's Church, began at half past seven o'clock P. M.

The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, aisles and gallery being packed, and all staying throughout the service, although the evening was oppressively hot. After the regular services of the Church, (Episcopal,) Rev. Dr. Huntington, of the Central New York Diocese, preached an excellent sermon from the text; John XII: 29.

Before Dr. Huntington began, Dr. Gallaudet explained the principles of the sign language of the mutes to the audience, and gave them some illustrations of the same. Dr. Huntington preached with great rapidity, and Dr. Gallaudet interpreted the sermon for the benefit of the mutes, who attended the service in a body.

At the conclusion, Dr. Gallaudet explained the work in which he and his co-laborers were engaged—the spiritual welfare of the Deaf-mutes at large—and a collection was taken up which resulted in a liberal contribution to the cause.

SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26.

The Convention was called to order by President Johnson, at 9 A. M.

Prayer by Mr. Samuel A. Adams of Baltimore, Md., who has long had charge of the spiritual welfare of the deaf-mutes in that city, and under whose direction and care religious services are regularly held.

The President then said that, the election of officers being next in order, he thought it best, if a person was nominated for any office who was not willing to accept it if elected, that he should say so previous to the voting, thereby saving time and trouble.

Prof. Peet suggested that a series of questions should be given out to those present, to be answered by them in writing during the intervals of the voting,

comprising name? residence? place of birth and education? married or single? &c., &c., to be handed to the Secretary and preserved by him for future reference. It would be both useful and interesting in a statistical point of view, and such a record, kept regularly at each Convention, would be of great value in future. This was agreed to, and the questions were written cut on the black-board where all could see them.

At the suggestion of Mr. Rider, the President said that the Board was composed of an even number of officers, caused by the addition of a manager from the State of New Jersey at the New York Convention. It should consist of an odd number, in order to ensure the casting vote of the President in case of a tie, or even vote, on any subject. He moved, therefore, that an additional manager be chosen from New Jersey.

This motion was carried.

Prof. Peet moved a reconsideration of the vote. He said New Jersey was not large enough for two managers. New York ought to have an additional manager. Divide New York State into four districts, instead of three as now, and the proportion would be about right.

The vote, after some discussion, was reconsidered, and it was voted to elect an additional manager from Central New York, instead of New Jersey.

Mr. Angus moved that one of the managers to be elected be a lady. This led to a lengthy discussion, during which various opinions in regard to woman's rights were thoroughly ventilated, but the motion was finally voted down.

The election then proceeded with the following result :

President. H. C. Rider, of Mexico, Oswego Co., N. Y.

Vice President. C. Cuddeback, of Phelps, Ontario Co., N. Y.

Secretary. H. A. Rumrill, of New York City.

Treasurer. S. A. Taber, of Scipio, Cayuga Co., N. Y.

MANAGERS.

Northern N. Y. J. Edwin Story, Cherry Valley, Otsego Co.

Southern „ Gilbert Hicks, Old Hempstead, Queens Co., L. I.

Western „ Clinton S. Fay, Brocton, Chautauqua Co.

Central „ Nehemiah Denton, Geneva, Ontario Co.

New Jersey. Albert G. Dewland, New York City.

The new President, on being elected, spoke as follows :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for the honor which you have just done me by electing me your President. What I have done to merit this honor I know not, unless my past duties to your Society have met your approbation. If these were such as have prompted you in my official elevation, there is no other motive to which you can ascribe them than to the deep interest I have had for its maintenance since it has been formed. I have always had an ardent wish that it might prosper and develop steadily despite all discouragement with

which it may now and then meet in its course, in order that it may not fail to be productive of real good to our entire community. I hope and trust that, at no great distance, it will, when it is placed on a firm pecuniary foundation, be enabled to carry into effect all the plans which may be adopted to further the general advancement of all adult deaf-mutes now scattered over our noble State.

As a society its tendency is, in short, to raise the aspirations, improve the ideas, refine the soul, reward industry, encourage virtue, &c., thus lifting the whole to a loftier position.

I again, my friends, return to you my many thanks for your good wishes and renewed confidence in me. Although I do not, as I must own, feel adequately qualified for the high position to which you have seen fit to elect me, I should still, if I made excuses, do injustice to the true impulses of my own heart, whose inclinations are ever held in readiness to answer the desires of our society according to the extent of my ability. Therefore, I accept the position and will endeavor to discharge its duties faithfully, and stand by the Constitution in all cases of emergency. In my past connection with you of four years, I wish to thank you for the aid and assistance you have given me and hope I shall receive the same support in the new position I am about to take.

On motion of Mr. Carlin, votes of thanks were passed to Messrs. Johnson, Rider, Cuddeback and Taber, for their past official services to the society.

Mr. Taber was spoken of in terms of the highest praise, for the efficient and untiring manner in which he had discharged his duties as Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements. The work almost entirely devolved upon him, but he accomplished everything to the full satisfaction of all concerned. His timely, prompt and personal attention to delegates on arrival by boat or rail, and his procuring of comfortable quarters for all were duly appreciated.

Votes of thanks were also passed to Messrs Holmes and Stamp, of the Tompkins House, and to S. D. Thompson of the Clinton House, for their attentive and liberal treatment of all who stopped with them; to the Railroad and Steamboat Companies for reduction of fare and other favors shown to delegates, and it was ordered that a copy of the DEAF-MUTE'S FRIEND, containing the proceedings of the Convention be sent to each of the following gentlemen :

C. Vanderbilt, Pres't, and C. H. Kinderick, Gen'l Ticket Agent of the N. Y. Central and the Hudson River Railroads; W. R. Barr, Gen'l Passenger Agent of the N. Y. and Erie Railway; W. B. Phelps, Gen'l Sup't of the Oswego and Syracuse and the Syracuse and Binghampton Railroads; J. W. Moak, Gen'l Sup't, and H. T. Frary, Gen'l Ticket Agent of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburgh and the Oswego and Rome Railroads; Geo. V. Hoyle, Sup't, and O. F. Briggs, Gen'l Ticket Agent of the Ogdensburgh and Lake Champlain Railroad; John Thorne, Pres't of the Utica and Black River Railroad; W. R. Humphrey, Sup't of the Cayuga and Susquehanna

Railroad; Capt. Goodrich, of the Ithaca and Cayuga Line of Boats, and the officers of the People's Line of Boats.

The thanks of the assembly were returned to the officers of the Cornell Library Association for the free use of their splendid Hall in which to hold its meetings.

On motion of Mr. Tillinghast, of N. C., the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved. That the thanks of this Convention are due to the people of the State of New York for the liberality shown, through their Representatives in the Legislature, toward the Deaf and Dumb, in giving them a free education, and thus securing to them all the rights and privileges of man.

Prof. Peet presented the following resolutions, which were passed:—

Resolved. That this Convention thankfully accepts Judge Boardman's invitation to visit the Cornell Library and Museum; and will do so immediately on the adjournment of this morning's session.

Resolved. That we accept the invitation of the Trustees of Cornell University to visit that Institution at three o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Carlin then stated that, owing to the decease of their venerated friend, Laurent Clerc, it was desirable that the mutes throughout the country should combine and take measures to raise funds for a suitable monument to his memory, as they had done at the decease of Dr. Thomas H. Gallaudet.

He remarked that, while the monument to Dr. Gallaudet had been raised by mutes exclusively, it was proposed, as the circumstances were somewhat different, to invite not only mutes, but their teachers and friends—in fact, all who had any interest whatever in the education of deaf-mutes—to contribute to the Clerc Testimonial.

The *Massachusetts Union* and *Boston Association* had already taken the first steps, and the *Union* had requested him to lay the matter before the Convention. He therefore presented the following resolution:—

Resolved, That this Convention organize itself into the New York Branch of an Association to be called "The Clerc National Monument Association," and elect the proper local officers; voting, in addition thereto, for a President and Secretary for the Association itself; the vote to be recorded and added to the results of the votes of the various local branches which are or may hereafter be formed.

This resolution being unanimously carried, the Convention organized and proceeded to vote for local officers, with the following result:—

Vice President, H. C. Rider; *Treasurer,* C. S. Newell, jr; *Executive Committee,* Alphonso Johnson, W. O. Fitzgerald, and John Witschief.

Voting for officers of the National Association, subject to the action of the various branches, resulted as follows:—

President. John Carlin, of New York City.

Secretary. Wm. Martin Chamberlain, of Marblehead, Mass.

It was announced that there would be a short session in the afternoon, to hear the final reports and settle up a few remaining items, after which the Convention would visit the Cornell University; meantime, the Library and Museum, situated in the same building with the Hall, were open for examination, and gentlemen were in readiness to show and explain everything.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Having called the meeting to order, President Johnson announced that the new Board of Officers had held a meeting, between the sessions, and had decided matters as follows:—

The next Convention to be held at Albany, N. Y., on the last Wednesday of August, 1871. Wm. Martin Chamberlain, of Marblehead, Mass., to deliver the Oration; and Alphonso Johnson, of the New York Institution, to be his alternate. Messrs. Gilbert Hicks, Albert G. Dewland and J. Edwin Story had been appointed a Committee of Arrangements to attend to the reception and accommodation of delegates and others, and to all particulars necessary to secure a large gathering and a pleasant and profitable time. It was hoped that the State Capitol, now in process of erection, might be so far completed when the time arrived for the gathering that its use might be had for the meetings of the Convention. Each member and delegate was requested to bear in mind the time, place, and other particulars, and impart the information as opportunity occurred.

Of arrangements with Hotels, Railroad and Steamboat Companies, &c., due notice would be given at the proper time.

Votes of thanks were tendered to Messrs. Johnson, Rider, Cuddeback and Taber for their past official services.

The services which had been rendered by Dr. Gallaudet and Prof. Peet, as interpreters of the proceedings of the Convention for the benefit of the hearing people in attendance, were also suitably acknowledged.

Mr. Chamberlain, Editor of THE DEAF-MUTES' FRIEND, being called on, came forward and said that he would, with the permission of the meeting, give a statement of the rise and progress of the FRIEND; and in connection therewith, would explain matters relating to the *Gazette*, formerly edited by himself and published by Messrs. Packard and Holmes.

It would be remembered, by many of those present, that at the New York Convention he had been very active in behalf of the *Gazette* and had spoken at length before the assembly on his plans and prospects for the future. He had been heartily endorsed by Prof. Peet and the result had been a very handsome addition to the subscription list of the *Gazette*. The promises he had made at the Convention had never been fulfilled, owing to his having been discharged from the post of Editor on his return to Boston.

The proprietors had decided, before leaving Boston to attend the Convention, to dismiss him on his return, but did not tell him so, as they wished to

secure his influence at the meeting. Of this he had ample proof in the person of Prof. Johnson, to whom Mr. Packard, under a pledge of secrecy, communicated his plans during the Convention. Of this fact Mr. C. was not aware until long afterwards. He trusted that the explanation, thus far, would be satisfactory. It was an unpleasant subject and he should not have mentioned it but for the numerous inquiries addressed to him since his arrival, all which he had promised to answer from the platform.

About a year after he left the *Gazette*, the mutes of New Hampshire, wishing to have a paper which should suit their wants better than the *Gazette*, clubbed together and contributed funds to start another. This money they deposited with Mr. W. B. Swett, with instructions to engage Mr. C. as editor. The result had been a partnership between Messrs. Swett and Chamberlain, who decided on calling the new paper *The Deaf-Mutes' Friend*, the suggestion of which title came from Mr. Swett.

When the *FRIEND* was started, in January, 1869, the *Gazette* was discontinued, and Messrs. Swett and Chamberlain agreed with Mr. Packard, then the sole proprietor of the *Gazette*, (Mr. Holmes having left in January, 1868,) that if he would hand over to them all the names in his possession, they would send the *FRIEND* to all whose subscriptions had not expired for the balance of the time, and Mr. Packard might keep the money. The agreement was dated January 13th, 1868, and covered only those names which Mr. P. had already received.

Mr. P. afterwards received quite a number of subscribers, whose names he handed to Messrs. S. & C., with a request to send the *FRIEND*; he retaining the money. He was told that the agreement did not go beyond its date, and that no more papers would be sent to his orders unless the money was paid in with them. Mr. P. said that he had understood the agreement to cover all subscriptions which he might hereafter receive. This was manifestly absurd, as Mr. P. had neglected, wilfully or otherwise, he would not undertake to say, to notify his subscribers of the discontinuance of the *Gazette*, and might continue to receive money for a long time. As Mr. P. would not hand over the money, the responsibility, it would readily be seen, rested entirely with him.

Receiving many letters on the subject, Messrs. S. & C. had published a full statement of the matter in the *FRIEND* for February, since which they had heard little of the matter. Mr. C. had, however, received some orders from those who had paid money to Mr. P. for the *Gazette*, requesting him to pay it over to the *FRIEND*. Mr. P. had honored all orders up to the present time, and if those now present, who had paid money to Mr. P. and failed to have it returned, would give him orders on Mr. P., he would try to get it.

Mr. C. said he should improve the *FRIEND* as fast and as much as possible. He did not expect a living from it; all he asked was that it should pay its own expenses. This, he was happy to say, it had done so far.

If the mutes and their friends would support the *FRIEND*, by sending subscriptions, items, news and contributions, it should be just what they needed.

Any suggestions in regard to improvements or alterations would be thankfully received and duly considered. He wished it distinctly understood that if, from any cause, the FRIEND should be discontinued, all money due to subscribers would be returned to them. This was the principle on which the FRIEND was started. The paper would be carried through the year, and so long as the mutes and others did as well as they had done, there would be no discontinuance. Thankful for past favors, he should endeavor to merit confidence and patronage in the future. In all that he had said and promised, he had spoken both for himself and his partner, Mr. Swett, with whom he had a perfect understanding, and of whom he had no fears.

Mr Rider and others expressed their confidence in the FRIEND and its proprietors and editor, and recommended all to subscribe; advice which was very generally followed after adjournment.

Mr. Johnson, the retiring President, in a few appropriate remarks, expressed his thanks to all for the good order which had been preserved during the sessions; for the aid rendered him in the discharge of his official duties, and for all other favors received. He said he should always take an interest in the Association, and do what he could to forward its objects.

He then pronounced the Convention adjourned, to meet at Albany, N. Y., on the last Wednesday of August, 1871.

ANECDOTE OF ROGER SHERMAN.—Years ago, when Roger Sherman represented Connecticut in Congress, the Democrats got into power in Fairfield, his home. They hated Mr. Sherman because he was a Federalist, and would allow no opportunity to pass of insulting him. On one occasion, when he was at home, they held a Town-meeting, and elected him "Hog Driver," the lowest office in the gift of the town. Just as the vote was to be declared, Mr. Sherman came in. The Moderator very gravely addressed him, saying: "Mr. Sherman, I have the honor to inform you that you have been elected to fill the honorable position of 'Hog Driver' for this town." Mr. Sherman, with ready wit, turned to him and replied: "Mr. Moderator, I doubt that vote, and demand a division of the House. If I am to be 'Hog Driver,' I want to see who the Hogs are!"

A GENTLEMAN who had his son with him when riding, noticed that the little fellow was very intently watching something over the side of the wagon. He asked him what he was looking at. The question seemed to break the reverie of the boy, who suddenly clapped his hands and shouted: "Go it, little wheel; big wheel can't catch you."

LEARNING is wealth to the poor, an honor to the rich, aid to the young, and a support and comfort to the aged.

CAUSES OF DEAF-DUMBNESS.

Dr. H. P. Peet, of New York, gives statistics from which he deduces the striking conclusion that in Europe, generally, the chances of the birth of a deaf-mute child are more than twice as great as in the United States, or six hundred and fifteen in a million there, against two hundred and seventy-eight in a million here; while the chances of the loss of hearing after birth are, in Europe, except in Germany, much less than in the United States, to wit, one hundred and fifty-four in a million there, and two hundred and twenty-two in a million here. Such statistical results as these form the data from which we must study the causes of deaf-dumbness. This striking contrast between the Old World and the New may be owing, in part, to climate; in part to the severe out-door labors imposed upon women of the laboring classes in many countries in Europe; in part to the idiosyncracies of race. The European returns which show such a preponderance of congenital cases are chiefly from countries where the bulk of the population is of the Celtic or Latin races. We have very few such returns from European populations of the Anglo-Saxon or Teutonic races, and most of those we have agree with the American returns in presenting a large proportion of accidental cases. The causes of congenital deafness are as yet but very imperfectly understood. When deafness is the apparent result of a known disease, or accident, it is comparatively easy to judge with probability of the mode of operation; but in most cases of congenital deafness we are left wholly in the dark, even as to the condition of the organs of hearing. They are too deeply seated for more than a very superficial examination in life, and opportunities for dissection of subjects known to have been deaf-mutes rarely occur.

The remote causes that have been, with most probability, assigned for congenital deaf-dumbness are the following:

1. Unequal ages of the parents, especially where the mother is older than the father, or advanced age of either parent, especially of the mother.
2. Ill health and feebleness of constitution in one or both parents, especially where there is a hereditary tendency to scrofula.
3. Impairment of the procreative power, especially in the father, through early dissipation or bad habits.
4. Intermarriage of blood relations.
5. Causes operating during gestation, through the excited imagination or nervous sensibility of the mother, or her ill health or some physical accident.
6. Intemperance in one or both parents. The influence of unhealthy occupations, bad water, inferior diet, or damp dwellings.
7. Direct hereditary transmission.

All these primary causes are applicable to other congenital infirmities, as well as to deaf-dumbness.

THE DEAF-MUTES' FRIEND.

WM. MARTIN CHAMBERLAIN, Editor.

SEPTEMBER, 1869.

It will be seen, by the report of the proceedings of the Convention at Ithaca, that an attempt will be made to raise funds for a suitable monument to the memory of Mr. Clerc.

It is desired to get the proper officers elected as soon as possible and we propose the following things to be done, hoping that the suggestions will be adopted.

The various Institutions for the deaf and dumb have now commenced a new term, and the Associations, literary and religious, in our cities, have or soon will begin their winter meetings, thus bringing together large numbers of deaf-mutes and their friends.

It is desired that all, deaf-mutes, teachers, officers and friends, contribute to the proposed monument and, in order to give all a chance to do so, information of the project should be circulated all over the country from each centre of action.

Let each Institution and Association call a meeting and elect a Vice President, Secretary, Sub Treasurer and an Executive Committee of three to collect subscriptions and remit them to the National Treasurer when called for.

Let the vote at Ithaca, which favored the election of Messrs. Carlin and Chamberlain as National President and Secretary, come before the meetings and be acted upon as the members may see fit; the results, with other proceedings of the meetings, to be sent to the FRIEND for publication.

When all have taken action, the National Board of Managers will at once go to work and use their utmost efforts to forward all things to a speedy completion. Their plans and prospects will be communicated regularly to all interested, and rules for guidance will be furnished all the officers, in order to secure harmony of action and the universal carrying out of the project upon one general plan.

The project necessarily involves much time, thought and labor. We are far from supposing that our suggestions cover the whole ground. We make them only to set the ball in motion, and shall

doubtless have many useful and practical suggestions furnished us from abroad ; we do not dream of opposition.

We will suppose that sufficient funds have been collected, a design has been selected, and a contract made to have the monument ready on a given day. What next? Why, of course, it will be desirable to have as many of the contributors present at the erection of the monument as is possible, and arrangements for such a gathering are the next thing in order.

Now, we would suggest to those who are interested in getting up a National Convention of deaf-mutes, that if they will unite with the rest in organizing a "National Clere Monument Association" and carrying its object to a successful issue, the occasion, after the ceremonies are over, will give an opportunity of talking on the matter in a mass meeting which will contain individuals from all parts of the country, among whom will be found enough to fully and fairly discuss the expediency of such a Convention and, should it be decided to hold one, a committee can then and there be chosen to appoint a time and place and make other necessary arrangements. This will be the cheapest and surest way.

Let this subject be laid aside until we have erected a suitable monument to our departed friend, and we can then take care of it better every way than now.

IN the June No. of the FRIEND, we published some verses under the head of "Memorial," and stated that they were written by the father of Millie H. Clark. We had never seen them before, and gave credit as we found it in the paper from which we copied them.

We have since discovered that the verses were written, in 1867, by Miss M. A. Burrage, of South Royalston, Vt., on the death of her little friend, Myron W. Day, a pupil of the American Asylum, who died in that Institution. A copy of the original verses lies before us, from which we perceive that but a very slight change was necessary to make them suit Mr. Clark's wants. We do not know that Mr. Clark claims to be the author of the verses ; and no objection has been made to their being used, beyond a hint that it would be as well to give the proper credit, to which we give a hearty assent, as such verses are too good to be floating about without the real author's name attached.

THOSE of our subscribers who receive this number with a red **X** marked on it will understand that their subscriptions have run out. We hope they will all encourage us and help to sustain the FRIEND by renewing their subscriptions.

"THE North Western Deaf-Mute Christian Association," of which we had heard nothing for a long time, appears to be yet alive and in operation, as the following item will show:

The Executive Committee of the North Western Deaf-Mute Christian Association met at Prof. Laughlin's residence, in Jacksonville, Ill., on the afternoon of the nineteenth of August, to hear the report of Prof. Crispin, the agent of the Association. Prof. Wait, the chairman, being absent, Prof. Laughlin was appointed chairman *pro tem*. After a reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, a committee was appointed to examine and adjust the accounts of the Agent. They made the following statement:—

Collected for the last thirteen days, \$82,10. Balance remaining in the Agent's hands, with security, after paying commission and travelling expenses, \$26,00. Prof. Crispin's conduct was examined and found satisfactory.

The Executive Committee tendered a vote of thanks to the Agent for his faithfulness and integrity.

Prof. Crispin, having too many other things to attend to, tendered his resignation as agent, which was reluctantly accepted.

We would like further particulars. Will some one send them?

THE HEALTH OF AMOS SMITH.—In answer to numerous enquiries in regard to the health of this gentleman, a report of whose serious illness has been widely circulated, we give the following particulars: .

His illness commenced in January last, with an attack of pleurisy and pneumonia combined. His strong constitution, with the blessing of God, enabled him to overcome it, and in the Spring, though not fully restored to health, he resumed the active duties of his profession. This proved too much for him, as a distressing bronchial difficulty set in and obliged him to relinquish all arduous duties.

It is doubtful if he ever fully recovers, yet he is patient, cheerful and uncomplaining; interesting himself in the new deaf-mute society of Boston, and in the welfare of all his friends; appearing a portion of each day at his office to direct the great work for the County, which he had undertaken, and which, of itself, when finished, will be a lasting monument to his perseverance, patience, industry and skill,

Mr. Smith is yet young, being only thirty-eight. Let us trust that his life, which has just begun to be most useful to himself and to the community, may be spared for many years.

A JUSTICE in Chicago lately sent a deaf and dumb witness to jail because he could not speak. He said that the Constitution guaranteed to every man the right of speech, and this witness must speak or go to jail. The Justice certainly lacked brains as much as the witness lacked hearing and speech; and the Justice was, to our mind, the more unfortunate of the two.

WHEN men speak ill of thee, so live that nobody will believe them.

TO ITHACA AND BACK.

LEAVING Boston at nine o'clock on Monday night, Aug. 23d, we arrived in Albany, N. Y., the next morning about six o'clock, tired, sleepy and dusty, and with a long day's ride in prospect. A wash and a good breakfast refreshed us, and at half past seven o'clock we started for Cayuga, over the New York Central Railroad.

Nothing struck us very forcibly until we reached Schenectady, the name of which place reminded us that we were in the Mohawk Valley, where the Indians once spread fire and slaughter, with intent to drive the white men away, and we became more interested in the scenery.

On one side the Railroad, the land was elevated and crowned with woods, orchards and farm-houses, while on the other side were miles and miles of Broom and Indian Corn and Buckwheat, and in the distance the Erie Canal, whose ark-like, clumsy-looking boats could be seen creeping along; beyond which the land rose again and represented a pleasing picture of wood and pasture, with here and there a farm-house. The valley is, for a long distance, destitute of stones, and is exceedingly fertile, judging by the abundant crops we saw.

The immense salt works at Syracuse and Salina, for which these places are famous, attracted much attention, but we were allowed only a short time to look at them; a visit was impossible.

At Auburn, the immense State Prison, standing directly opposite the depot, impressed us with a sense of its massive strength, and at the same time with a sad feeling that such buildings should be necessary. We changed cars here for Cayuga.

For some time before reaching Cayuga, at which place we were to take a steamer for Ithaca, we were regaled with glimpses of the broad expanse of Cayuga Lake, and anticipated a pleasant change from the hot, dusty and confined cars to the cool, roomy boat. A change it was indeed, and it was exceedingly pleasant, after washing the dust away, to pace the deck and enjoy the refreshing breeze. Our company had been increased in number, at various stations on the road, and we now numbered about forty, among whom were quite a number of ladies.

From Cayuga to Ithaca is about forty miles, and the passage over the Lake, on that pleasant summer afternoon, will long be remembered. It is a beautiful sheet of water, long and narrow, nestling between hills dotted with farm-houses and a pleasing variety of wood, orchard and cultivated fields; its shores occupied, here and there on either side, by villages, at most of which the steamer stops on its way.

As the sun sank behind the western hills, with a glow that promised a fair day on the morrow, we caught our first glimpse of Ithaca, nestled at the foot of the hills and so embowered in trees that it was difficult to get a cor-

rect idea of its size, On the crown of the highest bluff, stood the noble buildings of the Cornell University, of which, more hereafter.

Landing from the steamer, the cars carried us across the flats which border the Lake and deposited us at the depot, where we found coaches and ultimately reached our hotels with an excellent appetite for supper.

An evening spent in greeting friends and acquaintances and a good night's rest, prepared us for the business of the next day. Of the proceedings of the Convention a full report has been given elsewhere, and we will pass to the adjournment of the Convention on Thursday afternoon, after which most of the members visited the Cornell University, by invitation. Everything about the buildings is arranged with liberal hand, and an eye to permanency. The view from the flat roof of the main building is sublime.

Almost under your feet is the village, half hidden among the trees; a cascade, one of many in the vicinity, can be seen pouring over the rocks a short distance away. Buttermilk Creek and the Inlet wend their way through the meadows beyond the village like ribbons of silver, and the broad expanse of Cayuga and the hills beyond is spread out before you, everything gleaming in the sunshine. It is a spot where one might spend hours profitably.

Leaving this building, we go higher, to inspect the other buildings. Before reaching them, we come to a large belfry, which contains a chime of bells. We crowd into the building and the bells, which are rung by a peculiar contrivance, are all set in motion, making, we dare say, music which is heard for miles away, but makes no impression on us beyond jarring us heavily and communicating a curious, ringing quiver to our persons.

There are seven or eight bells, all suitably inscribed. The largest one bears the following inscription:—

"I call, as fly the irrevocable hours—
Futile as air, or strong as fate to make
Your lives of sand or granite; awful power,
Even as men choose, they either give or take."

The next largest bears the following:

"Ring in the valiant man and free;
The larger heart, the kindlier hand.
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Christ that is to be."

The buildings we next enter, contain a Mineral Cabinet, a school of anatomy and a chemical Laboratory, all furnished with everything necessary to a complete education in Agriculture. In one room were models of all the ploughs and cultivators ever made and used since the earliest days, and the number of different patterns was astonishing, there being several hundred. In another there were hundreds of specimens of English wheat and barley. The professor who showed us round and explained things, with Prof. Peet for an interpreter, remarked that many specimens of oats had been sent over but were all devoured by the rats on the passage. In the Lecture Room, with its hundreds of dissected models, we had an interesting lecture

on Botany, Anatomy, Zoology, &c., appropriately illustrated, and could have stayed for hours with profit had time admitted.

Time would fail us to relate all we saw and learned.

The University, founded by the liberality of Mr. Cornell, is an Agricultural school at which the students learn to till the earth, and have every facility furnished them for experiment and practice. Four hundred acres of land are devoted to the purpose and the teachings of the Institution must, in time, have a powerful influence on the agricultural interests of the country.

Leaving the University, sore against our will, we proceeded to Fall Creek, to see the waterfalls and other wonders. Here we found deep, gloomy ravines, tremendous waterfalls, laughing cascades and towering cliffs, in, around and over which we trod our cautious way, enjoying the wild picture exceedingly. We could write pages on what we saw and felt, had we space to do so. We did not reach the village again till dark and all wished the day had been longer, as we were not at all satisfied with the hasty and imperfect manner in which we had been obliged to go over the ground.

The thanks of the party are due to Prof. Russell of the University, who piloted us from the bluffs down the Creek to the village, and gave us much information.

In the evening there was a pleasant social party at the Clinton House, which broke up at a late hour, all having enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

The next morning, twenty-seven of us, including Prof. Peet, and some other notables, decided to stop on the way to Cayuga and visit the great Taughannock Falls.

The steamer left us at a landing about two miles from the Falls, where a carriage was in waiting for those who chose to ride. Several others beside ourself, preferred to walk and enjoy the scenery at leisure.

From the landing to the Falls, the road steadily ascends, and the view is constantly expanding, tempting to frequent stops for the enjoyment of the scene. The path, which winds along the brink of the tremendous ravine for most of the way, is full of bends and sudden elevations, at which the resistless glory of lake and wood and mountain arrest the attention, like bursts of light flashing upon the vision. We repeatedly crept to the brink of the ravine, at different spots, and peered over at the rushing stream far below.

Arriving at the Taughannock House, we had a splendid front view of the Great Fall, although, as we stood above it, on the opposite side of the immense amphitheatre into which the stream falls, the first feeling was one of disappointment, and the cataract did not answer our expectations of a fall of two hundred and fifteen feet; subsequent and nearer views, however, gave a different idea, as will be seen.

Taking a guide, our party proceeded to descend into the ravine above the cataract to visit the Upper Fall. The path descends in an easy wind to the bottom of the ravine, where the visitor finds himself surrounded by perpendic-

ular walls of rock hundreds of feet in height, under which he walks in the rocky bed of the stream, now low, with new beauties continually bursting into sight, until at a sudden turn, he sees a cataract of peculiar beauty and fifty feet in height. The water does not fall perpendicularly, but is dashed into foam down a steep, jagged, inclined plane. Below this is a beautiful miniature waterfall. The wall of rock to the left is carved as perfectly as if built by the hand of man; on the other side the cliffs of shale or slate rise in irregular, but stupendous grandeur far toward the sky.

Retracing our steps, we passed beyond the path by which we had entered the ravine, and approached the edge of the Great Fall. Most of us contented ourselves with a distant view of the edge, and of the magnificent ravine beyond, and the lake in the distance, but Wm. B. Swett, D. R. Tillinghast and two others, pulled off boots and stocking, waded down a small cascade and across the stream to the edge of the fall, where a narrow shelf projects beyond the cataract, nearly on a level with it, and affords an opportunity for a venturesome person to look down the dizzy height. By taking hold of each others' hands they were enabled each in turn to get a good view with little danger. Having reached the top of the bank on our return, we stopped to rest at a place opposite to the Taughannock House, from which the amphitheatre can be seen to advantage. While sitting there, Prof. Peet, who had gone ahead, returned, and said that he was not satisfied to leave without a peep over the edge, such as Mr. Swett and others had had. We decided to return with him, as did also Miss Libbie Sherlock, to whom we must give the credit of being fully as cool-headed, and a far better and more agile climber than ourself.

We descended to the bed of the stream by a nearer, but much more difficult path, Miss Sherlock reaching the bottom first. We came next and looking up, saw the Professor, who, as many of our readers know, is a very portly man, astride of a tree half way up, wiping the perspiration which streamed over his face. We telegraphed to him on our fingers to "Come on." He replied in the same fashion, "Large bodies move slowly." "Not when once in motion," said we. "Well," said the Professor, "if I should miss my footing, and roll down this long, steep stretch, and any one should be in the way, it would be 'wo' to him and 'whoa' to me." The Professor finally reached us without accident, but in a fearful state of perspiration, as well he might be, for the day was very warm; the air, between the walls of the ravine, was rather confined, and the sun poured down in unobstructed glory. We crept to the brink of the cataract and gazed to satisfaction on the scene, which was well worth all the trouble it cost to get there. A prolonged look into the awful abyss is sure to give one a swimming brain. Bushes which stood at the bottom of the ravine, and which we afterwards ascertained to be from four to six feet in height, looked like mere grass and weeds from where we stood. The majestic walls of rock stretched far away below us, crowned with forests, and jagged and broken by the elements. All around were evidences that the

stream had, in the course of ages, worn its way through the long ridge of rocks to the lake, and that the different falls were owing to various degrees of hardness in the rock.

With feelings of satisfaction, we turned away, and commenced the ascent, the Professor ahead. Much of the way, we found it convenient to go on all-fours, and the Professor remarked, after reaching the top, that he "had a greater respect for four-footed beasts than ever before."

Our return to the ravine had involved a loss of time, and the rest of the party had finished dinner before we reached the hotel. We lost nothing, however, by our tardiness, for the landlord, with a commendable anxiety for the fame of his house, insisted on killing fresh chickens for us, saying that the others had had such fare and he was bound to treat all alike. So, in a very short time, fowls, which had been strutting about in the yard when we sat down to the table, were laid before us nicely broiled. To a better dinner we have never sat down, and we heartily recommend the Taughannock House to all tourists.

After dinner, we left the hotel for a view of the Fall from its foot.

From Mr. Halsey's book, we take the following, as being better than we could write it:

"To obtain the best view it is necessary to descend to the bed of the ravine, and follow it upward till we stand at the foot of the majestic column of water, which towers two hundred and fifteen feet above us. The wearisome descent of the steep stairway is forgotten in the enjoyment of the grand and beautiful scenery with which we are there surrounded.

We find ourselves entering, apparently, the atmosphere of another climate. The ravine, although from two to four hundred feet in width, is shut in by walls so lofty that, except at midday, a large portion of its bed is untouched by the rays of the sun. The air, delightfully cool, and fragrant with the perfume of wild roses, seems to instill new life and vigor into our veins. Venerable forest trees overshadow us with their rich and variegated foliage, and tower upward in a vain endeavor to catch a glimpse of the rising and setting sun. Creeping vines twine luxuriantly around and above us. Brilliant flowers and handsome mosses are seen on every side. By a winding path, we advance toward the Great Fall, now, for a moment, threading the thick mazes of the overshadowing forest of evergreens; now, as we pass an opening, delaying to gaze upward at the Lilliputian specimens of humanity on the bank above, unable to recognize them as friends who are watching our onward progress; now, reposing beneath the sheltering branches, seated upon the fallen trunk of a forest tree. At length a sudden curve in the banks brings us unexpectedly in full view of the Great Fall. Here the chasm widens, and the more lofty walls form a spacious amphitheatre. On either side, the granite masses tower majestically upward, and seem to shut us in with an impassible barrier. Before us, from the frowning cliffs hundreds of feet in height, the mad waters take their terrible leap. The mighty

white column seems clothed with awe-inspiring grandeur. The water, as it approaches the edge of the fall, is of a dark green color; as soon as it leaves the edge, it spangles into a thousand transparent shapes, then, mixing and commingling, it is dashed into clouds of snowy foam, and descends in mists to the depths below.

We never become wearied with gazing upon the grand and beautiful picture which looms up so majestically before us. We are continually discovering new attractions. We clamber up the steep bank to view the picture from another stand-point. Now we decide in favor of a perspective view; now we advance, through a storm of misty rain, to the very face of the fall. Everywhere we are delighted. Everywhere we are impressed by the beauty and sublimity of the scene before us."

"Below the fall, and flowing to the foot of the perpendicular rocks on the right, is a dark pool, perhaps an hundred feet across, and from twenty-five to forty feet in depth. Large masses of rock are frequently dislodged from the lofty banks, by the action of the winter frost or summer rain, and thunder downward to the ravine below; and indeed, the cliffs have, all along, a toppling look which induces the visitor, creeping at their base, to look upwards at intervals to be sure that he is safe. Of the 'Lady of the Mist,' the 'Gothic Door' and other attractions, we have not space to speak; we think we have said enough to convince all that Ithaca and its environs are well worth visiting, and our only regret is that we could not spend more time there.

Reluctantly tearing ourselves away from the magic attraction of the scene, we retraced the winding path and steep ascent, and reached the landing shortly before the steamer, boarding which, we were in due time, just as the shades of night were gathering, deposited at Cayuga, where the party divided, we taking the night train to Albany, at which place we arrived the next morning, and which we left at half-past eight, in the Steamer Daniel Drew, bound for New York City.

We greatly enjoyed the trip down the river, and were especially interested in the Catskills, the Highlands, and West Point. While in New York, we paid a visit to the Institution on Washington Heights, Mr. Engelsman's school in East Fourteenth street, now under the superintendence of Mr. F. A. Rising, and Dr. Gallaudet's church, of which we shall speak hereafter, as we cannot do them justice in this number, for want of room.

The Convention at Ithaca was a success. Although the number present did not exceed a hundred and twenty-five, yet prominence and intelligence largely predominated and made the occasion one of profit and interest.

Among those present were Prof. I. L. Peet, John Carlin, Esq., Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, Mrs. T. H. Gallaudet, Sidney J. Vail and W. W. Angus of Indiana, Wm. B. Swett, and other well-known persons. The proportion of ladies was hardly large enough for such a gathering, but those who were present contributed much to the enjoyment of all.

From no Convention have we ever returned with more pleasant recollections, and we look forward to others with eager anticipation. To sum up, the selection of Ithaca for the gathering, shows good taste, for the village (why called a village, we could not imagine, as, with its ten hotels, numerous stores, and large extent, it should be a town of respectable dimensions), furnishes what all places selected for a Convention should do:—facilities for enjoyment of a day after the adjournment of the meeting.

The courtesy and attention of Capt. Goodrich of the Steamer, T. D. Wilcox, and of the landlord of the Taughannock House are specially remembered, and all favors from whomsoever received, are hereby gratefully acknowledged.

NEW YEAR'S LEVEE.—There will be the usual Social Assembly and Festival in Boston at the close of the present year.

The proceeds will go to the fund of the *Massachusetts Deaf-Mute Christian Union*, and the arrangements will be in charge of the undersigned.

It is contemplated to provide Tableaux and other amusements, a good supper, and to have the Hall open all day and night, for the accommodation of those who come from abroad and for all who may wish to see the Old Year out and the New Year in.

The Festival will be held on the evening of December 31st, instead of January 1st, as has hitherto been the case.

Efforts will be put forth to make it a better, more pleasant and profitable occasion than ever before,

Full particulars will be given hereafter.

The price of Tickets admitting a person to the whole has been fixed at ONE DOLLAR, and they can be had of either of the Committee.

PHILO W. PACKARD.	}	Committee of Arrangements.
WM. MARTIN CHAMBERLAIN.		
GEORGE A. HOLMES.		

TO PRINCIPALS OF DEAF-MUTE INSTITUTIONS.—An English Deaf-mute, (married,) thirty years of age, desires an engagement in some Deaf-mute Institution where his long experience as a teacher and printer may be required.

He could manage a Printing Office in an Institution and instruct the pupils in the art, and teach a class in the school.

His wife, who is also a deaf-mute, of industrious habits and engaging manners, would be glad to fill a position in the girls' department.

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